

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 /099 W

----- 020286

O R 171105Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4203

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSSAG NKP TAHI

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 14057

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, CB

SUBJECT: AFTERMATH OF NEAK LOEUNG INCIDENT

REF: SECSTATE 241161/102015Z DEC 73

B. AMEMB PHNOM PENH 13786/111230Z DEC 73

C. SECSTATE 245454/150100Z DEC 73

1. IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS POSED BY REF
C ABOVE, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED:

(A) HOW MANY CAMBODIANS WERE ACTUALLY GIVEN SOLATIUM
PAYMENTS AND WHAT WERE CATEGORIES FOR DIFFERENT AMOUNTS
PAID? NUMBERS OF CAMBODIANS PAID SOLATIUM BY CATEGORY:

(1) TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY THREE (273) WERE PAID
FOR DEATH OF REALTIVE (50,000 RIEL).

(2) FORTY EIGHT (48) WERE PAID FOR MUTILATION
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(50,000 RIEL).

(3) THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY FIVE (385) WERE PAID FOR SERIOUS WOUNDS (35,000 RIEL).

(4) FORTY SIX (46) WERE PAID FOR SLIGHT WOUNDS (6,000 RIEL).

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE NUMBER OF CASUALTIES IS HIGHER THAN OFFICIAL COUNT GIVEN BY GKR TO THE PRESS AND THEREFORE SHOULD NOT BE RELEASED. NUMBERS AND IDENTIFICATION OF CASUALTIES WERE PROVIDED AND CERTIFIED BY GKR OFFICIALS AND THIS PROVIDED THE BASIS FOR SOLATIUM PAYMENT. US MISSION HAD NO MEANS OF VERIFYING GKR PROVIDED CASUALTY LISTS. CHMEDTC DECIDED TO MAKE PAYMENTS BASED UPON THE GKR LISTING RATHER THAN CREATE A DIFFICULT POLITICAL SITUATION. TOTAL AMOUNT PAID OUT WAS \$114,460 DOLLARS, THE EQUIVALENT OF APPROXIMATELY 26 MILLION RIELS AT THE RATE IN EFFECT AT THE TIME THE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED OR APPROXIMATELY 33 MILLION RIELS AT THE RATE IN EFFECT WHEN THE LAST PAYMENT WAS MADE.

(B) HOW DOES SOLATIUM PAID FOR THIS BOMBING ERROR COMPARE WITH SOLATIUM GIVEN FOR OTHER SIMILAR BOMBING ERRORS? THIS BOMBING ERROR IS THE ONLY SUCH INCIDENT WHICH HAS OCCURRED IN CAMBODIA AND IS THEREFORE THE ONLY ONE FOR WHICH SOLATIUM HAD BEEN PAID.

(C) HAVE WE EVER COMPENSATED FOR DESTROYED BUILDINGS IN CAMBODIA? TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE NO COMPENSATION HAS EVER BEEN PROVIDED FOR DESTROYED BUILDINGS IN CAMBODIA. THE VAST MAJORITY OF BUILDINGS DESTROYED IN CAMBODIA HAVE BEEN AS A RESULT OF GROUND ACTION AND THESE PRIMARILY FROM ENEMY GROUND FIRE.

(D) HAVE WE EVER BEFORE REQUIRED PERSONS INJURED BY US ERROR TO PAY THEIR OWN MEDICAL EXPENSES? NO PRECEDENT HAS EVER BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR THE PAYMENT OF MEDICAL EXPENSES FOR PERSONS INJURED BY US ERRORS AS THE NEAK LOEUNG INCIDENT WAS A UNIQUE OCCURRENCE.

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(E) IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE SOLATIUM WAS A MONETARY GIFT PRESENTED AS AN EXPRESSION OF REGRET FOR AND INCIDENT THAT RESULTED IN DEATH OR INJURY AND WAS NOT INTENDED AS TOTAL COMPENSATION FOR THE LOSS SUFFERED.

2. AS TO ADDITIONAL RELIEF, THE GKR PAID ONE MILLION RIEL AND PROVIDED RICE AND CLOTHING TO THE AFFECTED FAMILIES IN CEREMONIES ATTENDED BY CHMEDTC AND CINCFANK

ON 8 AUG 73. AS NOTED IN REF B, THE CATHOLIC RELIEF
SERVICE HAS CONSTRUCTED A 200 BED ANNEX T THE RECONSTRUCTED
HOSPITAL.

3. SINCE THIS INCIDENT INVOLVES EXPEDITURE OF DOD
FUNDS AND INVOLVEMENT BY DOD PERSONNEL, RECOMMEND ANY
RESPONSE TO SENATOR HUGHES BE CLEARED WITH DOD.
ENDERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOMBING, ACCIDENTAL ATTACK, PROPERTY WAR CLAIMS, COMBAT CASUALTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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30 JUN 2005

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